



The Green Clan

Kickapoo
Environmental Office

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Native Grasses for Better Air

Article by Mike Kelley

With winter winding down, it's time to start planning for spring yard work. If you are looking for a low maintenance lawn cover, buffalo grass maybe the solution. Buffalo grass is a warm season native prairie grass that is well suited to the conditions of north east Kansas. This means a few things. First is that it requires less mowing, buffalo grass grows slowly and usually grows to a maximum height of between 4 and 8 inches. Since it is native and is used to the specific soil types of our area, it doesn't need as much fertilizing as other non-native species.

This grass is also an excellent

choice if you live in an area prone to drought, or are just interested in water conservation. A good deep watering will keep this plant happy for about two weeks, even in the hottest, driest parts of the summer. If you choose to not water at all, you don't need to worry about it dying off. It is adapted to the realities of our summers and will just go dormant, greening up again with the rain.

Buffalo grass isn't for everyone. Some people may prefer their lawn to have a darker green color compared to the lighter shade of green that buffalo grass has. If you have a very shady yard buffalo grass may not grow. For this grass to grow best you want

at least 6 hours of direct sunlight every day. Finally for those who want their lawn to stay green as long as possible, buffalo grass greens up in late spring and will go dormant by the first frost of the year.

While it may not be a miracle cure all, it is an interesting and low maintenance solution for your lawn care needs. If you mow less, you pollute less; this makes the air just a little better one blade of grass at a time.



Waste Management Public Survey 2011

The Kickapoo Environmental Office conducted a survey about public preferences on solid waste related issues so we can better implement our Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan and provide continually improving service to you. We want to thank all who participated. Your responses to the survey is valuable and will help us make improvements.

The winning numbers for the Wal-Mart gift cards are TICKET#623169 Marlene Jeannotte and TICKET#623191 Donna Davis! Please stop by our office to claim your prize.



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Working Together for a Better
Community!



We're on the Web!
[http://ktik-nsn.gov/
KickapooEnvironmentalProtection.htm](http://ktik-nsn.gov/KickapooEnvironmentalProtection.htm)

Kickapoo Environmental Office Upcoming Events!

1. March 15, 2011—KTIK Health Fair at the Golden Eagle Casino 10:00am—2:00pm
2. April 22, 2011—KTIK Earth Day Celebration (K-20 Clean Up)
3. April 25-29, 2011—Spring Community Clean Up
4. May 2-6, 2011—Spring Electronic Waste Round Up
5. July 18-22, 2011—Summer Community Clean Up
6. September 12-16, 2011—Tire Round Up
7. September 19-23, 2011—Fall Electronic Waste Round Up
8. October 3-7, 2011—Fall Community Clean Up

Your Pets, Your Children, Your Future

<http://www.petsandparasites.org/health/children.html>

Article by Companion Animal Parasite Council

Your concerns about the health of your family extend well beyond the birth of your baby. So do ours.

For many people, pets are an important part of the family circle. Naturally, you want to protect your family from needless exposure to internal parasites such as worms and external parasites such as fleas and ticks. Some pets can harbor zoonotic parasites that can potentially be transmitted from your pets to your family.

Making sure your pet is on a year round parasite control program is good health care for your pet and your family. Be certain that pet feces are picked up outdoors at least daily and that any play areas are covered to prevent animals from soiling them. Parasites carried by wildlife can be particularly concerning, so do not feed wildlife and do

not allow children to play in areas frequented by wildlife.

Toxocara is a zoonotic parasite that can be acquired from soil contaminated with the feces of cats and dogs. It poses a potential risk to infants and small children. Roundworm eggs are extremely hardy and remain in the environment for a long time. Young children are particularly vulnerable to exposure and infection because they are more likely to put dirt, contaminated food or other objects into their mouths.

Pets greatly enhance our lives. However, precautions for preventing the spread of zoonotic diseases are necessary, particularly when small children are involved. Do not allow children to put foreign objects from the ground in their mouth, and always wash children's hands and your own after playing with pets.